

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as including reference numeral 31 which is not mentioned in the Specification. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have added this reference on page 3 of the Specification. Accordingly, this objection is now overcome.

Rejection over 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent 4,859,893). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that the reference shows an electric motor with a wound rotor and a stator having a rotor core mounted on a shaft and a commutator mounted on the shaft adjacent the rotor core. A fan includes an integral inner collar 27 from which fan blades 29 extend. The Examiner states that the collar is fitted to the terminal portion 23 and is fixed to terminal portion 21 by complementary formations using snap-fit detents. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's understanding of the reference.

First, it is noted that the Examiner has referred to the terminal portion both for item 23 and for item 21. Applicants understand that the reference includes a commutator 20 with a base 21 (column 2, line 28) and with tangs 23 for connection to armature windings. A varistor ring 24 slides over the commutator and is held in place by clipping legs 30, connected to three of the fan blades, to U-section

lugs 32 on the commutator base. However, it is clear that while the legs on the fan blades contact the lugs on the commutator base, the fan blade itself and the varistor ring do not extend as far as the base 21 of the commutator. When assembled, the tangs 23 contact the silver pads 25 and prevent the ring 24 from extending onto the base. The fan 27 is behind this and also does not extend onto the base.

The description of the fan in the last paragraph of claim 1 states that the fan has an integral inner collar (27) with this collar being circumferentially fitted to the terminal portion of the commutator (22). Thus, the claim not only states that the collar is attached to the terminal portion, but that it must be fitted around it circumferentially. This differs from the Wang reference where the annular part 28 of the fan does not even contact the base. The only contact is between the feet 31 on legs 30 of the blades which contact lugs 32. Thus, the arrangement of the fan in relation to the commutator base is completely different than the present invention. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the Wang reference.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and as such also considered to be allowable. In addition each of these claims recites other features of the invention. Applicants also disagree with the Examiner's understanding of the reference in regard to these claims. The Examiner states that collar 27 of the reference is fixed to the terminal portion by complementary formations. This is not seen in any fashion. This claim refers to the projections 29 which engage slots 30 in the collar. This arrangement is not seen in the reference and accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 2 is further allowable.

Likewise, claim 3 describes the blade like projections which extend radially from the terminal portion which engage slots in the collar. Applicants submit that this arrangement is not seen in any fashion in the reference. The Examiner has referred to projections 32 in the reference. However, these lugs in the reference are connected to the base of the commutator. Further, the claim states that these projections must engage slots in the collar, which is not seen. Likewise, claim 4 describes that the

terminal portion has a plurality of housings which have not been identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are likewise additionally allowable.

In regard to claim 5, the Examiner states that the terminals 23 are insulation displacing type terminals. Applicants disagree that any disclosure of insulation displacing type terminals are found in the Wang reference. Wang uses weldable or hot staking type terminals which can be used on solder terminals. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 5 is likewise allowable.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Wang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to separate the support portion and the base of Wang. However, even if this is true, Applicants submit that this claim is still allowable based on its dependency on allowable claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Amendment Dated March 15, 2004
Office Action Dated Dec. 15, 2003

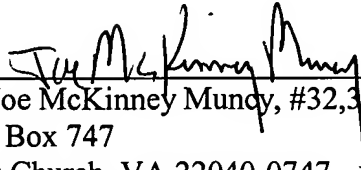
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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